

# Young girls meet to build self-confidence and more

'Just Us Girls' is a free non-denominational informal social group for girls to help them enhance self-awareness

**CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK**  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Carol Hadsall chuckles and says she used to do the gardening at her church but, now, she cultivates girls instead.

Hadsall is the originator of "Just Us Girls," a free non-denominational informal social group

for girls, which meets at the Dickson Educational Facility at the Trucksville Methodist Church once a month to enhance self-awareness.

The group is divided into two age groups, a younger group for girls in grades first through third and an older group for girls in fourth through

sixth grade but the groups intermingle with a purpose.

Four years ago, Hadsall responded to what she and other women in the church saw as a lack of confidence exhibited by young girls and said, "I just had an itch for this."

A former Girl Scout mother herself, she efficiently organizes the two-hour long meeting. This year's theme is the "Wizard of Oz."

The girls will watch the "Oz" movie, sing songs from the play and, most importantly, talk about the characters in the production and themes such as good and evil, unconditional love, courage and false hope.

At this first meeting of the year, the girls immediately latched onto the movie - many knowing all the songs. Emma

Hastings opened the program by singing a cappella a version of 'Over the Rainbow' and Mckenna Dolan offered to bring her violin to the next meeting to play some of the songs.

Hadsall works hard to keep the girls interested and the program flows very quickly.

Nothing went unnoticed as the younger girls ogled the older girls' talent and confidence. And that's exactly the experience that Hadsall has in mind for the girls.

"There are so many Aha! moments here. This is a self-esteem program."

If they hear it a thousand times from a parent, it doesn't count. But when they hear it from another girl, that they are not the only ones going through a tough situation or to try something new, it's meaningful," Hadsall says.



Charlotte Bartizek photos | For The Dallas Post  
Mckenna Dolan, Liz Hodle, Maddie Strutko, Gwen Martin and Skyler Hadsall work together in the kitchen during a 'Just Us Girls' night in Trucksville.



Madison Kaufer, Emma Hastings, Abby Hastings and Jensen Meade perform for a group of younger girls during a meeting of 'Just Us Girls,' a program designed to build self-confidence.

## HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

### Residents encouraged to volunteer with EAC

**SUSAN BETTINGER**  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Megan Sgarlat-Prynn, vice chairperson of the Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), made an announcement at the Oct. 16 Harveys Lake Borough Council meeting that there are currently two vacancies on the EAC.

The EAC advises borough officials on environmental policies and issues. The members serve without compensation for three-year terms.

EAC meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the the borough's Municipal Authority building. Meetings are open to the public.

Any Harveys Lake resident or property owner who has an interest in the borough's environmental issues and concerns is asked to contact the borough's secretary Susan Sutton at 570-639-3300 for more details on becoming a member of the EAC.

**In other matters...**  
\* Council has approved the contract renewal of Police Chief Charles Musial for 2014-2016. Musial, along with the borough's police officers, will receive a 3% raise per year. Beginning in 2014, Musial's yearly salary will be \$53,107.

\* Musial announced that 16 cars have recently been burglarized within the borough. Along with Mayor Clarence Hogan, Musial urges residents to keep their car doors locked.

\* Mary Jo Alcott, of Lakeside Drive, asked council for a response as to why "nothing has been done" regarding the situation of a dispute that she and her husband, Jeffrey, have with neighbors, Fran and Margaret Kopko.

Alcott has asked the borough to force the Kopkos to remove a fence that Fran Kopko stated he placed on his property because the Algotts have propane tanks on his property. Kopko, who has lived at the address for the past 43 years, further stated that the situation leaves him with a liability issue.

Alcott stated at the meeting that the Kopkos' roof had fallen as a result of neglect. Kopko replied that he had the roof taken down himself and had been issued the permit for the work in August of this year.

Borough Solicitor Charles Mc Cormick explained to Alcott that "if any action needs to be taken (regarding the accusations of the dispute) the zoning officer will handle the matter within a week to 10 days." Mc Cormick also added that "there are no clear violations" on the Kopkos' property.

\* Council approved JP Mascaro as the borough's trash collector with a 3-year contract at the rate of \$788,652. Additional stickers are available at \$3.25, bulk stickers at \$22.50, and one alternate annual household collection at a cost of \$9,216

\* Council approved the Geisinger Health Plan as the borough's health plan at a cost of \$56,250.84, a savings of \$14,000 under the Affordable Health Care Act.

The Harveys Lake Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 19 Lakeside Drive, near Pole 1. Participants only need to bring their own pumpkin as utensils will be provided. For more information, contact Patti at 570-762-2832.

The next council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19.

## Learning on the farm

Graham Academy students stuffed handfuls of hay into the belly of a scarecrow to frighten off hawks as part of their experiential education program Oct. 18 at The Land at Hillside Farms in Shavertown.

Students tried to help Dandy the Donkey with its separation anxiety while others studied traffic flow after they posted a "Caution Children Learning" sign along Hillside Road. Students tried to apply theories they formulated in the classroom to everyday challenges at Hillside Farms.

Each month, students from the special education school travel to Hillside Farms to learn about farm life, farm animals and the tools and equipment used by farmers for planting and harvesting. This

recent trip involved finding solutions to challenges farmers regularly face as they raise and care for their livestock.

The school visits the farm as part of its science enrichment curriculum that works in conjunction with Hillside's agricultural education programs. Graham Academy teachers and Hillside Farms staff work together to devise experiential education lesson plans for the students which are presented before each trip so that classes can study it, discuss it and be prepared when they arrive at the Farm.

Although the Graham Academy has been visiting Hillside Farms for several years, this is the first year in which the two groups collaborated on experiential farm curriculum.



Submitted photo  
Graham Academy teacher Vanessa Dawley helps her students make scarecrows to ward off hawks at The Land at Hillside Farms in Shavertown. Each class of students from the special education school were tasked with finding solutions to challenges farmer face on a daily basis.

## LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

### Due to recent shooting, supervisors vote to beef up security

**CAMILLE FIOTI**  
Dallas Post Correspondent

In light of shootings at a Ross Township, Monroe County, municipal meeting in August, the board of supervisors voted on Oct. 21 to begin a project to improve safety at the municipal building.

Board Chairman Dave Sutton expects the project to cost roughly \$12,000.

Mountain Stream Construction will begin work before the end of the year, Sutton said. "Based on what happened, we felt we needed to address that," he said.

The project will include installing a glass, bank

teller-type window at the front office and putting a lock on the second set of glass doors in the entryway. Township secretary and office manager Marian DeAngelis will have the ability to unlock the door from her desk.

In another matter, Sutton said the residents living in the Oak Hill subdivision won't have to pay their sewer bills next year due to a surplus in the Municipal Authority fund.

The township dissolved the authority last April and the Dallas Area Municipal Authority took over operations, leaving a fund surplus, which is cur-

rently at about \$120,000.

Oak Hill residents received a reduction in their sewer bills this year due to the surplus. The board pointed out the township would only pay next year's sewer bills for Oak Hill residents who are current on this year's bill.

Treasurer Alvin Cragle announced that next year's increase in the township's Blue Cross coverage for township employees is only 1.1 percent due to a decrease in usage from last year. Cragle said the township may receive a refund in premiums if the low usage continues.

The savings will allow the township to provide vision benefits for township employees and their families, Sutton added.

"We don't pay a whole lot to our employees," he said. "So if we can provide an extra benefit, we try to do that."

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